

# Notes from Hi Ya Meeting 4<sup>th</sup> December 2024

The meeting was attended by 14 of our volunteers.

## Santa Trips

The finalised manning list was read out as a reminder to those involved. Volunteers are also needed on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 2.30pm to load the boat ready for the Santa Trips.

This year, adults will also receive a gift and there will be a lucky dip. So far, there are twice as many adults as children booked on these trips.

To date we are light on bookings; there are several other Santa activities happening over that weekend. We will try advertising on Facebook through the Pamela May and Spotted Droitwich sites.

## Boat

- Toilet. In the event of a problem in stopping the flow of water, there is a stop tap to the right of the toilet.
- Throttle appears to be working after the latest repair. Some reported power loss problems are thought to be due to the propeller becoming fouled with leaves. Occasional use of reverse thrust should remedy this. Trustees have agreed to buy a new throttle which has been ordered and will be fitted by Automarine in the New Year. This will be to the correct specification and suitable for outside use.

## Metal Containers

Trustees have agreed to buy a new container. Materials stored in the old containers are to be sorted and cleared out; a skip will be provided for discarded items. It is expected going forward to retain just one container.

## Carol Trips

Carol trips are now running most days. The electric convection heater is being used extensively, but there have been some low voltage warnings on the control panel. During this period, the boat should be plugged into the mains at close down to ensure 100% charge is available for the next trip. There has been some good customer feedback from these trips.

## Bookings

We already have around five bookings for next year. Prices are being kept the same except for the 8-hour trips which will increase to £240.

Fish & Chip cruises will be £22 per person and Cream Teas £17. Annas are keeping their prices to us the same as they are getting such good publicity and feedback from our trips.

There was some uncertainty expressed as to whether prices quoted on the website were for the whole boat or per person. This will be looked at to try and make it clearer.

## Crewing

Generally ok but need one crew on a trip one week from tomorrow (12<sup>th</sup>).

Hosts for Cream Tea trips are always needed; duties are light but it involves a lot of standing. Carol trips not having a host seem to have worked well.

## Training

Training will restart around February/March next year. In-house produced training videos are available on the website. Viewing is encouraged as they will be an integral part of new crew and refresher training.

## Festivals

It is intended to run trips for two days over Easter and St. Richards, and the Saturday & Sunday of Saltfest. As Easter is late this year and very close to St Richards festival, there was concern about overworking our volunteers. The programme will be kept under review in the light of volunteer availability.

## Environmental

Andy has been invited to a meeting to discuss the Health Corridor proposal for a walkway between Hanbury and Ladywood. Substantial funds have been allocated for the project. Emphasis seems to be on the towpath rather than the canal, but we shall be promoting navigation and particularly management of the reeds, which has safety and aesthetic implications for walkers and boaters alike.

## Social Event

Salwarpe Village Hall has been booked for a social evening on January 10<sup>th</sup> starting at 6.00pm. Sarah has kindly offered to do the catering. The Hall is unlicensed and there will not be a bar, but one free drink will be provided, and all are welcome to bring their own supplies.

Please let Andy know if you intend to come so that Sarah has some idea of numbers for catering.

## Membership

It has been decided to leave existing patrons as they are and possibly have a future review of categories to better describe ex-crew, friends, supporters etc. on our listings.

## Next Meeting

No meeting in January (New Years Day) but we will resume in February.

## AOB

- As part of the Santa Trip introduction, permission should be sought to use any photos taken on the trip in our publicity/social media.
- Emma is organising uniforms and has a list of newly qualified members. Trustees have agreed that we keep a small stock of the regular sizes.